

# End of term News Dec 2021

**A snapshot of learning opportunities and achievements over the last half term.**



And we made it to the end of term—and what a term it has been. Despite all the challenges going on around us, learning has continued to flourish at Newport. Lively lessons, trips, sports events, after school clubs and a host of Christmas activities have been enjoyed by all. The children are continuing to make up for lost learning time and this is paying off with the progress that we are seeing. Thank you to all parents and carers who have continued to support their child with home learning tasks, particularly encouraging that love of reading that underpins all other learning.

Whilst we are expecting to return as usual in the new year, we are acutely aware that things can change very quickly. We will keep parents informed of any changes to our current safety arrangements via email and the school APP, so please check these over the break and particularly on Monday 3rd January.

A huge Thank You to all the staff at Newport, who as usual have gone above and beyond to make sure that our provision continues as normal as possible.

We wish you all a safe and magical Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 4th January**.

Katherine Marshall—Executive Headteacher

## CHRISTMAS AT NEWPORT

The spirit and joy of Christmas has very much been alive at Newport CE during the final weeks of term. The hall looks fabulously festive – thank you to all of the classes for making their Christmas hoops and to the FoN for decorating our tree. The choir kicked off the season with a wonderful performance at Newport Minster. Next up was our Christmas jumper and Christmas lunch day. A huge thank you to Skye and Becky in the kitchen for cooking us a true feast!

Next up was the Nativity: EYFS and KS1 have worked so hard on perfecting their lines, dances and smiles. This year is a 'Strictly Come Dancing' theme and we very much hope that you love the performances. Surely no-one can resist a funky camel dance...

During the final days of term, we have enjoyed a virtual panto (with dressing up!) in KS2, Polar Express day in EYFS and lots of Christmas parties in classes! We have also taken lots of time in our worships and lessons to learn and reflect upon the story of Christmas through readings and songs. LKS2 led our Christmas worship and retold the story beautifully.

On the last day of term, we will be celebrating the relaunch of our library with Christmas stories and hot chocolate for everyone – a magical way to end the term.



## LKS2 SCIENCE – AUTUMN 2 2021

During science this term Year 3 & 4 have been studying ROCKS, FOSSILS and SOILS. This is a fascinating topic, which allows children to recognise many natural or man-made rocks that they may see around them in every day life.

Initially, we compared and grouped together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties using a Venn and Carroll diagram. The children were then able to name rocks and test them according to their hardness and other properties and observing how rocks are used around the school.

Earlier this week, we walked to St. Mary's Church in Carisbrooke where the children were able to observe a variety of rocks which are being used for a particular purpose. They discovered that many of the gravestones were made from sandstone, limestone and gneiss. The children also spotted marble on the memorial for the soldiers who had died in the two world wars.



At the beginning of this term we were all extremely lucky to visit Dinosaur Isle in Sandown. This gave us a truly wonderful hands on experience! The organisers of the Museum walked us along the beach at Yaverland to look for fossils and other interesting things. The children were so excited and managed to find many different kinds of fossils, stones and rocks and even managed to bring some home to show our parents. We were fascinated to discover how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rocks!

During the workshop, we enjoyed holding a whole range of fossils, rocks and other artefacts; one being the oldest fossil in the museum's collection - which is over 350 million years old. It was found in the UK and was formed when the West Midlands would have been on the equator!

Afterwards, we had a tour of the museum with its many life- sized dinosaurs which are on display; there were so many interesting displays to explore in the museum. The children enjoyed being archaeologists and exploring the different stages of the rock cycle. They also loved observing all of the model dinosaurs, including those that have been discovered on the island. Finally, they went and bought a souvenir from the shop.





## Art in UKS2

This half term in Art, UKS2 have been taking part in exciting sessions based on the topic 'Inky Still Life'. They started the topic with a visit to the Quay Arts centre where they viewed the gallery 'All Rivers Run North' by Rachel Johnston, before using it as an inspiration to create their own piece. Back in school, children took part in three workshops on mark making, still life and the use of ink. Finally, the children visited Southampton Art Gallery and were given a tour of the gallery before creating their own pieces of still life using different thickness of wire. You can see some of the children's work in the Clayden gallery exhibition, open for free at the Quay Arts in Newport until 2<sup>nd</sup> January.



At the Quay Arts, the children used the artists sculptures to create their own pieces using charcoal.



At the Southampton Art Gallery, children were able to view still life paintings, this one over 400 years old from Holland.



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In the skills sessions, children learnt how to use different pencils to make different thickness of mark.



The finished product !

## Nativity in EYFS and Key Stage 1!

We've ended this term with a huge bang, by performing our fantastic Nativity: Lights, Camel, Action!

The Strictly Come Dancing themed performance saw our well-known Nativity stars perform dances in front of our panel of judges (some friendly, some not so...) whilst telling the important story of the birth of Jesus Christ. We had some spectacular dancing from the townsfolk of Nazareth who danced a line dance, awesome funky camels throwing some seriously funky shapes, beautiful ballet dancing angels, morris



dancing shepherds and sheep, a whole sky full of stars shining ever so brightly and a tango from the innkeepers of Bethlehem!

Our judges made a comment on each performance and gave each dance a score out of 10. Caesar was tricky to impress but he did show his soft side every once in a while – well done to the angels and stars! With our stage managers as well, the audience were able to interact throughout the performance, often clapping, cheering, whooping and hollering but also sharing their disappointment with some of Caesar's comments and scores (boooooo!)



The children have practiced so hard this term to make sure that the performance was 'alright on the night' and it really was – we are all very proud of them. The Year 2 children (and a special mention to our two fabulous Year 1 children who performed as the star in each performance this year) told the story very well. With each child either being a host, voiceover, judge or main character of the Nativity story, there were a lot of lines to learn as well as songs to be sung. Year 1 became fantastic dancers who performed for our judges. They too had a lot to learn this year – when to come on stage, where to stand, their choreography and remembering to smile as well as sing! EYFS were super stars (literally). With this being their first nativity performance, they sung beautiful and joined in with all of the actions with huge smiles on their faces.



Well done and Merry Christmas!  
From EYFS and the KS1 team.







It has been an exciting time for the library - our team of extraordinary volunteers and Reading Captains have been busy rearranging, revamping and reclaiming books and shelves and space ready for the January relaunch!

To recap, the library had been closed since March 2020 due to the first lockdown. Both children and staff alike have missed the books and their precious time in the library.

A plea was sent out to our school community and we were so lucky to receive the help and talents of some wonderful people. They have given up precious time in order for our school to have its library back. Reading Captains were appointed and have been helping with this task. Their next responsibilities will include Christmas stories in the library on the last day of term and helping with the Scholastic Book Fair which makes a very welcome return in February – more details to follow in the New Year. The Captains will also be training to help run library sessions for the other classes in school. In addition, a sale of old library books and DVDs in November raised over £23 in valuable funds!

Look out for the book-cover redesigns from the library competition – they will be framed and adorning the walls of the library shortly to add some colour to the area.

We simply cannot wait for January and for all of the exciting library-related things we have in store for you all!

Mrs Eagle



## NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

We have had a super busy time leading up to the end of the Christmas term here in the kitchen.

Our school meal take up has increased again, which is such fantastic news. We are also feeding more teachers and staff.

Our Christmas meal went really well, with over 235 meals being delivered. It was an amazing achievement. All the school staff, including our Site Manager, cleaners, office staff and Head of school came out to wash up, serve, clean up and support the children. There was a lovely atmosphere and lots of full happy tummies.

Our dessert competition winner - Indiarna in year 3 - won her lunch and I made her winning dessert; chocolate, mint and strawberry shortbread. Well done Indiarna!

I am busy writing next term's menus and finding new and exciting recipes. I have had some help from the teachers and staff whom have offered up recipes they like. You will be able to find them on our new spring menu which will be out on the school app and the school website in the New Year.

I have also been creating information cards to educate the children about the food they are eating at lunch and the new foods found in our salad bar and weekly fruit bar, with exciting facts and statistics to help brighten up the hall.

Breakfast club runs from 07:45 to 08:45 each week day morning. We are still in the running for the Tesco Community Grant. If you shop in Tesco and receive a token, please pop it in our pot. We will find out in the New Year if we have won. We are always here to provide a breakfast for every child whether you attend breakfast club or not if your morning has not gone as planned and breakfast was missed. Toast, cereal and juice is available every day.

*Thank you for all your continued support.*

*We hope you have a very happy and healthy Christmas.*

*Skye Sydenham*

**Newport C of E Primary Catering Manager**





# Christmas in EYFS!

This term has been a super busy one with rehearsing for our first ever Nativity!

We were all superstars (that's what Mrs Smith and Mrs Ridett told us!) and we were actually stars!



On Christmas jumper day, we designed our own using small parts. We really thought about patterns when designing.



On our Nativity day we learnt all about how Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, and when they got there, there was no room anywhere except a stable where baby Jesus was born! We were all quite shocked that there was no hospital a long time ago! We also enjoyed painting a Nativity scene by numbers!



In our continuous provision we are very lucky and have a role play Santa's workshop! We have been busy designing, wrapping and writing letters for Santa and our friends! This has supported us to act out our experiences with our peers.



In our maths challenge we have been wrapping 3d shapes to build upon our shape language-it has been so much fun when giving the wrapped shape to friends and them trying to guess what shape it is!



Some of us cut out and labelled our own Christmas story book using our phonics!












As we finish this term, I would like to remind everyone that although it's the most wonderful time of the year for most people, Christmas can also be a reminder of the people we have lost, it can add financial strain and this leads to extra stress and worry - and so it becomes a stressful time rather than a joyful one.

It's important to remember that whilst school is closed, there are still teams of professionals waiting to support you should you need it this Christmas time.

Please see the list of useful contacts below which you might be able to use, or you might wish to pass on to someone in need.

Have a wonderful Christmas however you choose to celebrate!

 <p>Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people</p> <p>kooth.com</p> <p>online until 10pm daily</p>	 <p>The Mix helps young people take on any challenge, from mental health to money, breakups to drugs, and everything in between</p> <p>themix.org.uk</p> <p>Helpline open until 12am everyday</p>	 <p>Find the help and advice you need. You are not alone</p> <p>Support for young people and parents</p> <p>youngminds.org.uk</p>
 <p>ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME childline.org.uk   0800 1111</p> <p>Counsellors available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, online or on the phone</p> <p>For children, young people and parents.</p>	 <p><b>MENTAL HEALTH DROP IN</b></p> <p>The Hub, 114 Pyle Street Newport, PO30 1XA</p> <p>When: 2pm – 5pm every Wednesday</p>	 <p>Stamp Out Suicide A free, ongoing, over the phone counselling service to help people get through their darkest moments.</p> <p>07766 808 222 10am-2am</p>
 <p><b>PAPYRUS</b> PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE</p> <p>Confidential suicide prevention advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person.</p> <p>papyrus-uk.org Available 24/7 0800 068 41 41</p>	 <p><b>Whatever you're facing We're here to listen</b></p> <p>Call free day or night on <b>116 123</b></p> <p>Email jo@samaritans.org</p> <p>samaritans.org <b>SAMARITANS</b></p>	 <p>Resources for all dealing with bereavement, online, on the phone and in person support. Resources for those supporting young people through loss</p> <p>cruse.org.uk 0808 808 1677.</p>



Medical advice / Urgent or Emergency help	111 / 999
School Nurse and Health Visitor Support	01983 821388
Local online Adult Mental health Advice / support	<a href="http://www.iwmentalhealth.co.uk">www.iwmentalhealth.co.uk</a>
<b>Youth Trust</b> – can offer advice if you have concerns about your child's mental health or emotional wellbeing	01983 529 569 or <a href="mailto:info@iowyouthtrust.co.uk">info@iowyouthtrust.co.uk</a>
<b>Samaritans</b> – 24/7 advice and support	116 123 (free call)
<b>Isorropia Foundation</b> – Adult mental health support and advice	01983 217791
<b>Citizens Advice</b> – Can support with crisis grants and loans for winter fuel bills, food, etc...	01983 823859
<b>Childline</b> – to raise concerns about a child's safety, or for children to contact to have someone to talk to.	0800 11 11 (free call – 24/7)
Isle of Wight <b>FOOD BANK</b>	01983 292040
<b>Young Minds</b> – advice if you have concerns about your child's mental health or emotional wellbeing	0808 802 55 44 (free call)
National Domestic Abuse Helpline	0808 2000 247 (free call)



# MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

## 1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

## 2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pinning for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizzard.

## 3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

## 4 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

## 5 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

## 6 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

## 7 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

## 8 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

## 9 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

## 10 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday